

Nation's wealth; while the bottom 90 percent have 26 percent, the greatest income disparity ever. This is a manufactured crisis, Mr. Speaker. Do what Alan Greenspan recommended: Go back to the Clinton tax rates; balance the budget; pay for the wars; pay for tax cuts; pay for expansion of Medicare; meet your obligations; don't manufacture crises; and don't drive us to deadlines when the whole world is watching and wondering if we are serious about governing the world's strongest economy.

THE JOBS OUTSOURCERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in just a few hours, my Republican colleagues will bring to the floor the Jobs Outsourcers' Bill of Rights. This piece of legislation is an open attack on workforce protections, a union-busting bill that will open loopholes for companies to ship our jobs, American jobs overseas, and will make historic changes to workers' rights, all to serve the well-connected special interests community. This bill will allow companies to fire workers, workers who think that they might have a better shot of supporting their families in these precarious times by banding together to negotiate with their employers. That right, the freedom of association, finds its origins in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Whether or not you like unions, there is no sense in making it even easier to ship our jobs overseas. If this bill becomes law, a company faced with a few organizing workers trying to form a union could close an entire United States plant and move the work to China, where sweatshop laborers will work for less than even the lowest-paid, nonunion American workers. Actually, that's an assault on America's middle class. I would urge my colleagues to oppose this reactionary and poorly thought out legislation.

WEAKENING THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I know my constituents and most Americans are trying to figure out exactly what this debt ceiling crisis is. It can't be about a desire to cut spending because both sides have already agreed to more cuts than are on the table in either the Senate or the House. No, this is a politically induced crisis that the Republicans have created in order to force votes on the debt ceiling next year during a Presidential campaign and weaken the President. But I hope they realize that if they weaken President Obama, they weaken the Presidency as

well. And if they succeed in defeating him next year, their candidate, their President, will face reduced stature in the world, just as our political system will face a reduced stature in the world.

We are the foundation of economic and political stability around the world, and this crisis is threatening our stature in that position. We cannot let the Republican politically induced default crisis succeed.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been in the majority for a full 29 weeks, and they still have not addressed the number one priority of the American people: jobs.

The Republican majority has, instead, used the time and energy that should have been focused on jobs to manufacture a crisis that could very well destroy the full faith and credit of our Nation. What makes this made-up crisis so undignified is that the other side has taken the American people hostage to their radical plan of placing the burden of deficit reduction on the backs of poor, working poor, and struggling middle class families while asking absolutely nothing of the most fortunate among us. Why, Mr. Speaker, have those who have done very well in America been asked to do so little for the country that made their success possible?

The Republican-led 112th Congress has totally ignored the jobs crisis and has actually managed to create another. The 112th Congress owes the American people an apology for continuing to waste their time. Where are the jobs? We owe the American people real job creation.

FAILURE TO PAY IS NOT AN OPTION

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues what my constituents are saying, simply stop playing games.

Now, we all come to this job with certain ideas, values, and principles. But that doesn't mean we get to let our ideology dictate the facts. Failure to pay our bills will have a catastrophic effect on our still-recovering economy. It's as simple as that.

This isn't a question about enabling future deficits. The Federal Government needs to cover promises it has already made to our seniors, to our soldiers in the field, to our veterans, to our States, and to our creditors at home and abroad. We need to pay our bills.

The need to address our debt is every bit as serious as the need to avoid a de-

fault, but we need a balanced approach and shared sacrifice. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of working and middle class Americans while simply refusing to ask corporations and billionaires to pay one penny more. We cannot ignore the facts, and allowing our Nation to default is no way to fix our budget problems.

SPENDING-DRIVEN DEBT CRISIS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our record debt of \$14.3 trillion is growing, and it poses a direct threat to our national security, our economy, and our children's future. The American people deserve real leadership right now, not politics as usual.

The President's bipartisan deficit commission called the House-passed Path to Prosperity a "serious, honest, straightforward approach to addressing our Nation's enormous fiscal challenges." On the contrary, the Democratic cochair of the commission, Erskine Bowles, recently criticized the President's fiscal plan, introduced on April 13, by stating that "When you compare it to the Ryan plan and to the commission's plan, it really doesn't stabilize the debt. The debt, as a percentage of GDP, gets up to around 77 percent, and it never gets to primary balance."

If President Obama and the Democrat leaders of the Senate wish to take solving our spending-driven debt crisis seriously, the solution is simple: Washington must stop spending money it doesn't have.

FIGHT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND DEFEAT H.R. 2587

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, America earned the name the Land of Opportunity because anyone willing to work hard and play by the rules can make it here. Well, our families still work hard, they still play by the rules, and yet so many are barely scraping by. So they send us to Washington to fight for them. They can't afford lobbyists. They only have us.

Today we will consider Republican legislation that is a textbook example of why too often, the special interests win out over the public interests. H.R. 2587 gives corporations a green light to send jobs overseas if their employees simply ask for a decent salary or better hours. This bill is based on the premise that executives can negotiate multimillion dollar bonuses for themselves, but if American workers exercise their rights, their jobs will be on the next plane to China. That's the majority's answer to outsourcing of American jobs. If the rights of American workers get in the way of corporate profits, then it's time to do away with those